

WTHR

One stop disaster relief assistance

Indianapolis - Help is on the way to flood victims. The FEMA director is expected in Indiana Friday. Three disaster assistance centers will open for help.

The assistance centers opening are at the Poston Road Elementary School in Martinsville, Northside Middle School in Columbus, and the Booker T. Washington Community Center in Terre Haute.

The Martinsville Mayor, county and state leaders, called a town meeting telling flood victims that help arrives on Friday. Victims will receive help from the state with emergency food stamps, unemployment benefits, even replacement driver's licenses. Victims will also receive help from the federal government with filling out forms to qualify for disaster assistance.

FEMA and the Red Cross will be able to answer more of your questions, and provide better direction at the assistance centers.

The Centers will be open Monday through Friday from 9am until 7pm. They open on Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Flood victims are encouraged to document the damage the best they can, and have patience.

FEMA is touring dozens of counties in the Midwest. For more information, visit our [Hot Topics](#) section.

Farmers tell governor about flooding woes

Morgan County - Gov. Mitch Daniels continued touring flood-ravaged parts of Indiana Thursday. Indiana Director of Agriculture Andy Miller joined the governor.

Indiana outlook

Meantime, Thursday there were more evacuations in southern Indiana counties as floodwater continues to rise.

Gov. Daniels is keeping a close watch on the clean-up that involves thousands of people. He made stops in Columbus, Martinsville and Elnora.

Governor Daniels choppered into Columbus to visit Premier Ag. The two grain elevators were damaged which prompted the company to transfer the product.

The governor also announced the opening of three disaster assistance centers in Columbus, Martinsville, and Terre Haute. They are scheduled to open Friday:

Northside Middle School
1400 27th Street
Columbus

Poston Road Elementary School
139 East Poston Road
Martinsville

Booker T. Washington Community Center
1101 S. 13th Street
Terre Haute

[Indiana Floods](#) - Get info on how to apply for disaster assistance from FEMA, see road conditions and boil water orders and watch video.

Homeland Security update - Thursday

Severe weather update from Department of Homeland Security and other state agencies

CURRENT SITUATION

- WABASH River: Mt. Carmel, (will crest above Major Flood Stage - anticipated date is Friday); Riverton, and Vincennes, (Cresting at these locations), Hudsonville (Crested just above Major Flood Stage and is dropping)
- DAVIES COUNTY: Maysville Levee failed this morning, prompting evacuation of areas northwest of Maysville and Washington.
- GREENE COUNTY: The Jasonville water pipeline has been repaired. INDOT providing sand to fill in around pipeline. Water in Jasonville will be undrinkable for 48 hours - boil water in effect. IDHS Fire Marshalls office has arranged for personnel to support the Jasonville Volunteer Fire Department for 48 hours.
- GIBSON COUNTY: Sandbags are being pre-positioned at Hazleton in preparation for potential flood fight for that community. IDHS staff and the MCC are stationed there for support. Forecasted to crest at Record Flood level Saturday Morning/
- MARTIN COUNTY: Shoals (East fork of White river crested at 28.1ft last night)
- PARKE COUNTY: Petersburg at Major Flood Stage (White River) and rising. Expected to crest 1.5ft above Major Flood Stage Friday afternoon. (The power station will receive 4,000 sandbags in preparation for potential flood fight)
- BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY: Schaefer Lake, dam failed

DISASTER DECLARATIONS:

President George W. Bush has approved the first eight counties for federal assistance in Bartholomew, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Vermillion and Vigo counties. Damage assessments for other counties are continuing and are being submitted to the federal government as they are completed.

STATE AGENCIES ACTIVE IN RESPONSE OPERATIONS

- Indiana State Police:

o S.R. 231, S.R. 9 in Bartholomew County, and S.R. 258 from Courtland are now open

o Reports that Governor Daniels is going to assess damage in Daviess County today.

- Indiana Department of Transportation

For road conditions go to EMERGENCY.IN.gov Click on map of Latest Storm Damage Info.

When encountering a flooded roadway, INDOT urges drivers to turn around and not drive through standing water.

- State Department of Health

o The State Department of Health FAQs has been updated on the state's [Storm Damage Information Web site](#). [Find tips for safely cleaning up after a flood](#).

- Indiana Department of Environmental Management

o Continued surveying of affected wastewater treatment plants is underway.

o Debris management: IDEM fact sheets on emergency burning and emergency debris management are available [here](#).

o Agriculture Facilities: The Nation Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced that recovery funding may be available. Information is available [here](#).

o Spill Incidents: Staff continue to identify and resolve small spills in Bedford, El Nora, and Washington. Additionally, staff identified displaced tanks and assisted in the recovery throughout the affected areas.

- Agriculture - IBOAH and ISDA

o If farmers have livestock losses (deaths), they should go to the [Indiana Board of Animal Health website](#) or call 317-227-0300.

o If farmers have manure, pesticides or other farm chemicals that have spilled due to flooding, they should contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Spill Hotline at 317-233-7745 or 1-888-233-7745.

- Indiana National Guard

o National Guard has delivered 3 water tanks to the Bartholomew and Daviess County armories.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

5 confirmed injuries in addition to 3 confirmed fatalities

- SHELBY COUNTY: two fire fighters injured during water rescue 06/08/08
- BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY: state conservation officer suffered a head injury 6/08/08
- DECATUR COUNTY: two minor injuries 6/08/08

SHELTER OPERATIONS

Johnson County: Community Church of Greenwood, 1477 W. Main St., Greenwood

Morgan County: Martinsville High School, 1360 E. Gray St., Martinsville, IN

Brown County: Brown County YMCA, 105 Willow Street, Nashville, IN

Bartholomew County: Northside Middle School, 1400 27th St., Columbus, IN

Owen County: Spencer Elementary, 151 E Hillside Ave, Spencer, IN

Vigo County: North High School, 3434 Maple Ave, Terre Haute, IN

Knox County: North Knox High School, 10890 N. State Road 159, Bicknell, IN

Daviess County: North Daviess Jr-Sr High School 5494 E SR 58 Elnora, IN

Total Shelter Population: 194

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES Status of Utilities:

- Gas: outages reported in Johnson, Morgan, Jackson, Decatur, Bartholomew, Vigo and Owen counties. Approximately 2,600 customers affected.
- Boil Orders: Jasonville (Green); Cordry / Sweetwater Lake (Johnson)
- Water System Failures

o Vigo County - widespread well contamination

o The Prince's Lakes Water Utility is recommending that all cooking and drinking water be brought to a complete boil for 5 minutes before using. The Town of Prince's Lakes is in Nineveh.

- Power

o No widespread outages reported

Status of Communications:

- AT&T, Embarq, Verizon report high levels of service trouble, but are beginning to be allowed back into affected areas and are working round the clock to address problems.

SUMMARY OF STATE AGENCY RESPONSE OPERATIONS

Total Number of State Personnel Deployed

Indiana Public Safety Commission - 1

Indiana Department of Environmental Management - 5

Indiana Department of Transportation - 234

Indiana Department of Administration - 1

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission - 1

Indiana State Police - 75

Department of Natural Resources - 10

Indiana National Guard - 1250 and Five UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, one OH-58 helicopter

Board of Animal Health - 2

Department of Agriculture - 14

Indiana State Department of Health - 10

Indiana Department of Homeland Security - 40

Indiana Department of Corrections - 20

Red Cross - 353

[Overview of federal disaster assistance](#)

Indianapolis - Many Hoosiers impacted by recent severe storms and flooding in Indiana are asking about the state's federal disaster recovery status. Here is some basic information about the types of assistance the federal government may provide and what the state's status is as of June 11.

Overview

Governor Mitch Daniels has signed three executive orders and sent a letter to President Bush and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Edward Schafer

Executive Order 08-09 (June 6) declared a disaster emergency for 41 counties with known destroyed and damaged properties caused by tornadoes and other severe storms from May 30 to June 4. A disaster declaration is one step needed to request assistance from the federal government.

Executive Order 08-10 (June 7) declared a disaster emergency for 10 counties because of severe damage to properties caused by severe storms that caused flooding and related issues on June 7.

Executive Order 08-11 (June 7) added 13 counties to the previous disaster declaration.

The governor sent a letter to President Bush on June 8 to request that an expedited disaster be declared for 44 Indiana counties. An expedited request allows a state to request a decision from the President without first completing all preliminary damage assessments. Early on June 9, the President gave approval for immediate emergency protective measures in 29 counties.

The governor sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on June 9 requesting that 44 counties be declared major disasters because of damage to crops and loss or significant harm to livestock because of storms that began on May 30.

Daniels has said that the state may declare disasters for other counties.

Direct Federal Assistance

Status: Indiana has requested assistance for 44 counties and received approval for Direct Federal Assistance in 29 counties.

What Direct Federal Assistance means: Direct Federal Assistance covers food, water and other consumable commodities, and other emergency protective measures, including installation of generators, installation of large plastic sheet roofing and shoring or demolition of unsafe structures. Addresses immediate emergency needs.

Individual Assistance

Status: Indiana has requested individual assistance for 44 counties. Joint preliminary damage assessments by the state, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) have been completed for Marion and Hancock as well as Bartholomew, Johnson, Monroe, Morgan, Rush, Vermillion and Vigo counties and the state is awaiting a response from the President. Damage assessments are in progress in Brown, Daviess, Greene, Henry, Knox, Owen, Shelby and Sullivan. The next counties to be assessed will be Clay, Gibson, Jackson and Sullivan, and others will follow after the peak of the flood reaches communities or the flood waters have receded enough to assess damage. The assessment is done in phases to expedite the approval processes. By breaking the assessment into phases, initial approval by the President for individual assistance could begin in days, instead of weeks, and subsequently approved counties will be quickly added to the list on a rolling basis.

NOTE: Counties on this list will change and will be updated.

What Individual Assistance means: Individual assistance provides financial assistance to households for rent, repairs, replacement of home and personal goods up to a maximum of \$28,800 per household. FEMA aid is designed to complement rather than replace private insurance, so any claims paid by private companies will be taken into account in the determination of a FEMA grant. However, people may apply for FEMA aid while awaiting the adjudication of any private insurance claims they have made.

In addition to the individual assistance grants, FEMA works with the SBA to help victims obtain personal loans, up to \$200,000 for households for the repair and/or replacement of homes and personal goods. Business owners can also apply for loans up to \$1.5 million.

If the President approves Individual Assistance, people in the approved counties will be able to apply for assistance through FEMA, either on the phone or Internet.

FEMA will then begin setting up Disaster Recovery Centers, which will include FEMA, other federal agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service and SBA, Red Cross, and representatives of state agencies that provide services affected people will need. This may include the Department of Workforce Development, the Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Insurance, and the Family and Social Services Administration. In addition, FEMA will bring four mobile units to the state to supplement the centers.

Public Assistance

Status: Indiana has requested public assistance for 44 counties. The state will work with local entities to compile damage assessments to forward to federal officials for their review. This is a longer-term process.

What this means: Public assistance provides federal aid to local governments and certain nonprofit organizations for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities and infrastructure. If public assistance is granted, the federal government funds 75 percent of damage costs granted and local governments are expected to provide a 25 percent match.

Agriculture Assistance

Status: Indiana has requested that the USDA declare 44 counties major disaster counties and has asked Indiana's USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) to expedite its damage assessment process. Because of this request, it is important for farmers in affected areas to report damage to their local FSA offices as soon as possible.

What this means: USDA disaster declaration makes farmers in those counties and contiguous counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans from the USDA FSA. It may also make them eligible for additional federal assistance that may be created.

Disaster assistance available for Hoosier residents

Indianapolis - A toll-free application telephone number and on-line registration are now operational for residents in eight Indiana counties who suffered property damage or losses from severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that occurred May 30 and continuing.

The Indiana counties designated for Individual Assistance (IA) are Bartholomew, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Vermillion and Vigo counties. Additional designations may be made at a later date after further evaluation.

State and Federal officials encourage those affected by the disaster to apply for assistance immediately by going online to <http://www.fema.gov> or by calling this toll-free number, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern time), seven days a week, until further notice. Those with speech or hearing impairments may call TTY 1-800-462-7585.

Officials remind affected residents who have already filled out damage report forms with the State, or their county emergency managers, or voluntary agencies that they must register with FEMA at the above numbers or Web site to be eligible for federal assistance.

All residents are also encouraged to get involved with the recovery by helping spread the word about available assistance. Tell your neighbor.

The declaration makes a wide range of programs available to residents such as funding for temporary disaster housing assistance, replacement grants for serious disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or assistance programs.

When applying for help, be sure to have the following information available:

- Your current phone number;
- Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying;
- Your Social Security number, if available;
- A general list of damages and losses you suffered;
- If insured, the name of your company or agent and your policy number;
- General financial information;
- Bank account coding if you wish to speed up your assistance with direct deposit.

FEMA disaster assistance covers basic needs only and will not normally compensate you for your entire loss. If you have insurance, the government may help pay for basic needs not covered under your insurance policy.

Some disaster aid does not have to be paid back, while other help may come in the form of loans. The FEMA representative will explain the details to you when you call.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes are also available to repay or replace damaged or destroyed property.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

WISHTV

Disaster aid centers opening today

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) - More help is on the way for Hoosier flood victims. Three disaster aid centers open Friday morning in three Indiana counties.

The big one is in Morgan County at Poston Road Elementary School in Martinsville.

Another site is in Bartholomew County at Northside Middle School in Columbus.

The other is in Terre Haute at Booker T. Washington Community Center.

All three open at 9 a.m.

The Red Cross, Salvation Army, BMV and social service caseworkers will meet with victims to discuss their needs and fill out paperwork.

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[Applying for aid important step for Morgan Co. residents](#)

MORGAN COUNTY, Ind. (WISH) - Governor Mitch Daniels and federal officials will tour the damage in flood-ravaged Morgan County Friday. That is also when residents will begin applying for aid.

Federal, state and Morgan County officials held a meeting Thursday night, which set the wheels in motion for getting residents back on their feet.

Hundreds of Morgan County residents turned out to get information about state and federal aid following the devastation. Many are frustrated about Indiana insurance policies.

Officials said 44 Indiana counties have been affected but Morgan County is one of eight immediately declared federal disaster areas. They said FEMA has 21 teams on the ground across Indiana.

"It's the cleanup. It's...how we deal with the human element, now, of a disaster," said Congressman Steve Buyer.

Three disaster assistance centers will open Friday. A big one is in Morgan County at Poston Road Elementary School in Martinsville. Another site is in Bartholomew County at Northside Middle School in Columbus. A third site is in Terre Haute at the Booker T. Washington Community Center 1101 S. 13th St.

Red Cross, Salvation Army, BMV and social service caseworkers will meet with victims in Morgan County to discuss their needs.

The number for the FEMA Disaster Help Line is 1-800-621-3362.

Gov. praises residents who saved town from flood

DAVIESS COUNTY, Ind. (WISH) - A white line of sandbags built in the town of Elnora looks like it could be a monument. The people who built the wall saved the town.

Indiana governor Mitch Daniels said Elnora survived a very close call and he praised the people who prevented a bigger disaster.

"This is the town that people saved...and we wouldn't be standing here if it hadn't been for some really heroic efforts," said Daniels.

The residents saved the town by standing along the river on Monday. Private citizens, soldiers and Marines heaved heavy bags. They had to raise the wall by three feet along a mile of the levee that wasn't tall enough for the water, which was coming fast.

While it worked, they're looking for lessons.

"We're going to take careful inventory...so that, it may be 30, 40, 50 years from now, if this happens again...there's less damage," said Daniels.

Other people are still in danger. The head of Indiana Homeland Security said people in Hazleton and Mount Carmel are sandbagging now. They're still waiting for the flood to crest.

Governor Daniels toured more of the flood zone Thursday. Daniels left the area feeling that many farmers have lost everything and won't be able to replant this year. Daniels expects to talk with the federal secretary of agriculture on Friday to discuss the problems of Hoosier farmers.

June Flooding: FEMA Assistance Information - Indiana

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FEMA Assistance Centers

Bartholomew County

Northside Middle School
1400 27th Street
Columbus, Indiana

Morgan County

Poston Road Elementary School
139 East Poston Road
Martinsville, Indiana

Vigo County

Booker T. Washington Community Center
1101 S. 13th Street
Terre Haute, Indiana

At the disaster assistance centers, computers and phones will be available for Hoosiers to complete (FEMA) applications. In addition, the Red Cross will be on site to deliver basic necessities for those needing food, water or clothing and other essential items. State agencies, including the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, Indiana Department of Insurance, Department of Workforce Development and others, will have representatives on site to provide immediate assistance and answer questions for those who have suffered a loss. These state services will be available:

Housing Support - Listing of emergency shelters; listing of temporary housing; rental assistance; apply for Small Business Administration (SBA) home disaster loan

Social Services - Replacement and emergency food stamps; application assistance for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamps, Medicaid and child care; listing of available child care providers; mental health service referrals; mobile feeding; Red Cross and Salvation Army case work

Unemployment Insurance - Apply for state unemployment benefits or Disaster Unemployment Insurance

Insurance Information - Interpretation of insurance policies by staff of the Indiana Department of Insurance; information on lost or damaged policies; information on obtaining copies of insurance policies; general insurance navigation advice and complaint resolution; car insurance assistance; representatives from private insurers will be on site to answer questions

Public Health Information - Clean up advice and education including mold removal and prevention; vaccination information, including tetanus shots; information regarding free well water testing; access and information to vital records such as birth and death certificates; listing of open medical treatment facilities

Transportation Assistance - Rental car information; vehicle title and registration replacement or apply for a salvage vehicle title via the BMV; car insurance assistance from agents of major private insurance providers; replacement of driver licenses and identification cards.

Business and Financial Services - Application assistance for SBA Disaster Loans from small business counselors from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation; business continuation and planning consulting from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

Agriculture - Representatives from the Department of Agriculture will be available to answer questions.

Many Indiana crops not salvageable, governor says

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) - In a press conference Thursday, Governor Mitch Daniels said he believed that damage to crops in southwestern Indiana is severe to the point that some are not salvageable.

The governor toured the areas Thursday.

Indiana Agricultural Commissioner, Andy Miller, said Hoosier farmers in flooded areas face a "widespread challenge." He said some farmers have lost about 20 percent of their crops but farmers in river-bottom areas have lost everything.

The governor said that he plans to meet with the USDA Friday morning to discuss the situation.

Daniels also said that FSSA offices will be opened in all affected counties to help residents apply for state and federal assistance. The offices are also intended to help people deal with their own insurance companies.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security has issued an advisory through the governor's office for those who are returning to flooded homes. The release includes tips for dealing with mold, hiring a contractor and how to work with your insurance company -- The release can be found in the left margin of this story.

Boil Notices & Emergency Information

Current Situation:

- State response assets being repositioned south of the White River in preparation for the crests at Mt. Carmel (Gibson), Hazelton (Gibson) and New Harmony (Posey)
- **DAVISS COUNTY:** Maysville Levee failure evacuations northwest of Maysville and Washington.
- **GREENE COUNTY:** IDHS Fire Marshall's office has arranged for personnel to support the Jasonville Volunteer Fire Department for 48 hours.
- **GIBSON COUNTY:** White River (Hazelton) forecasted to crest at record level Saturday Morning. Army Corps of Engineers inspecting levees around Duke Energy plant to ensure integrity and sending a second team to Hazelton for inspection and evaluation of the levees.
- **HAMILTON COUNTY:** Wabash River (Mt. Carmel) expected to reach 34ft crest on Friday

- **KNOX COUNTY:** NWS predicts negligible impact of future rain on Edwardsport. The breach of levee unit 8 downstream will provide some relief to Edwardsport as levee is not expected to be repaired by the time the rain comes.
- **MARTIN COUNTY:** Shoals (East fork of White river crested at 28.1ft last night)
- **PARK COUNTY:** Water is currently being released from the dam at Raccoon Lake (DNR)
- **PIKE COUNTY:** Petersburg (White and East Fork) expected to crest 1.5ft above Major Flood Stage Friday afternoon. Power station will receive 4000 sandbags in preparation for flood fight

Disaster Declarations:

- President George W. Bush has approved the first eight counties for federal assistance in Bartholomew, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Vermillion and Vigo counties.
- People and business owners can begin applying for financial aid by calling 1-800-621-FEMA or by registering online at www.fema.gov.
- Damage assessments for, Adams, Boone, Clay, Dearborn, Jackson, Jennings, Montgomery and Sullivan counties are underway and will be submitted to the federal government as they are completed.

Water Notices:

- **State Department of Health - State health officials are recommending that people in flooded areas with septic systems or wells that are under floodwaters should use bottled water for drinking, brushing teeth, cooking, or bathing.**
- Health officials recommend boiling water for 5 minutes before drinking it. Crews are working to repair the water main breaks, but do not know how long that will take.

Boil Orders:

- Jasonville (Green), Cordry/Sweetwater Lakes communities in Johnson county

Water System Failures:

- Rural Vigo County - widespread well contamination

Gas Outages

- Outages reported in Johnson, Morgan, Jackson, Decatur, Bartholomew, Vigo and Owen counties. Approximately 2,600 customers affected.

Power Outages:

- No widespread outages reported

Status of Communications:

- AT&T, Embarq, Verizon report high levels of service trouble, but are beginning to be allowed back into affected areas and are working round the clock to address problems.

Agriculture:

- If farmers have livestock losses (deaths), they should go to the Indiana Board of Animal Health website at www.in.gov/boah or call 317-227-0300.
- If farmers have manure, pesticides or other farm chemicals that have spilled due to flooding, they should contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Spill Hotline at 317-233-7745 or 1-888-233-7745.

Louisville TV

WDRB

[Gov. Daniels tours flood areas](#)

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels is getting a first-hand look at flood damage to farmland. He made an aerial survey of Columbus on Thursday before meeting with farmers.

Farmer Nathan Burbrink told the governor, "We've lost 90% of our corn crop, all of our bean crop, 90% of our wheat crop, 50% of our milk production on our cows."

Gov. Daniels, after hearing this, said, "This is a very hard hit and they were, as I expected, very fixed on the practical solutions. How do we pick up from here, make the best of it, and get on?"

[After the deluge, victims eager for aid to arrive](#)

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Flood victims who have lost their homes or belongings are eager for federal disaster grants and loans so they can start rebuilding. And officials say they're working hard to deliver that aid as quickly as possible.

Eight counties have been approved for individual federal aid, and Governor Mitch Daniels says he expects other counties to be added as the state surveys the damages.

This afternoon, state officials said there are still two areas of concern where river waters had not crested - Hazleton along the White River in northern Gibson County and East Mount Carmel about 10 miles southwest of Hazleton in Gibson County.

FEMA anticipates opening local disaster assistance centers in some of the affected counties next week to answer victims' questions about available aid and when federal inspectors might visit their properties.

[Paulson due to visit flood-ravaged communities](#)

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Administrator R. David Paulison of the Federal Emergency Management Agency is due to get a firsthand look at flood damage in Indiana.

Gov. Mitch Daniels' office says Paulison is traveling to flood-ravaged areas of the Midwest and is expected to arrive in Indiana on Friday afternoon.

Daniels will meet Paulison in Martinsville at the state's disaster assistance center there.

WHAS

[Flooded areas of Indiana could see more rain](#)

Gov. Mitch Daniels toured parts of southwestern Indiana by air Thursday and also spoke to some farmers on the ground to assess the impact the flooding has had on the state's farmland.

He told reporters afterward that the crop damage was worse than had been feared.

The governor said he spoke to farmers who had lost anywhere from 10 percent of their crop to nearly all of their crop. Many told him they won't be able to replant because their fields are now too wet and because it's getting too far into the growing season.

"The last day for corn (planting) is only about a week or more off and the land will still be wet," Daniels said.

Daniels planned to visit flood-damaged areas in Greene County and Terre Haute on Friday, and then meet at the state's disaster assistance center in Martinsville with R. David Paulison, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In Daviess County, where the town of Elnora about 50 miles north of Evansville had been threatened earlier in the week, county emergency management director Paul Goss said Thursday evening that the White River had crested and the river was falling.

Goss said flooding had damaged 55 to 66 homes in the county and would leave behind standing water for some time to come.

"Now comes the hard part — the paperwork and the rebuilding," he said.

[Paulson due to visit flood-ravaged communities](#)

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Daniels will meet Paulison in Martinsville at the state's disaster assistance center there.

WIBC

8 Counties Approved for Federal Disaster Relief

President George W. Bush has approved the first eight counties for federal assistance for homeowners, renters and businesses in central and south-central Indiana damaged by severe weather that began May 30.

The president's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Bartholomew, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Vermillion and Vigo counties. Damage assessments for other counties are continuing and are being submitted to the federal government.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has also decided to consider the weather events that began with tornadoes and severe storms on May 30 and continuing through heavy rains and flooding on June 7 as one weather event. That means more Hoosiers are likely to receive help.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in these counties can begin applying for assistance now by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).

First 3 One-Stop Disaster Assistance Centers Open

Flooded out residents have a new place to go for help. The first three One-Stop Disaster Assistance Centers are now open.

Computers and phones will be available for Hoosiers to complete FEMA applications. In addition, the Red Cross will be on site to deliver basic necessities for those needing food, water or clothing and other essential items.

Many state agencies, including the Family and Social Services Administration, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, Indiana Department of Insurance, Department of Workforce Development and others will have representatives on site to provide immediate assistance and answer questions for those who have suffered a loss.

The first three centers are located in Bartholomew, Morgan and Vigo counties. State officials expect centers to open in other counties as well.

Paulison Due to Visit Flood-Ravaged Communities

Administrator R. David Paulison of the Federal Emergency Management Agency is due to get a firsthand look at flood damage in Indiana.

Gov. Mitch Daniels' office says Paulison is traveling to flood-ravaged areas of the Midwest and is expected to arrive in Indiana on Friday afternoon.

Daniels will meet Paulison in Martinsville at the state's disaster assistance center there.

[Floodwaters Head Toward State's Southwestern Indiana](#)

Indiana's highest floodwaters continued moving down the White River on Thursday toward its confluence with the Wabash River, threatening the towns of Hazleton and East Mount Carmel in the state's southwestern corner.

High waters also threatened parts of historic New Harmony along the Wabash.

As of Thursday evening, state officials said floodwaters had not yet crested at Hazleton along the White River and East Mount Carmel about 10 miles southwest of Hazleton near the area where waters from the White River empty into the Wabash River.

Joseph Wainscott, director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, said sandbagging has been completed along a levee at Hazleton, and officials were evaluating what preventive steps might be needed in East Mount Carmel. Both cities are in Gibson County.

Wainscott said more rainfall is predicted for Indiana on Friday, but he said the National Weather Service indicated it should not have much effect on the current flooding.

Gov. Mitch Daniels toured a swath of southwestern Indiana by air Thursday and also spoke to some farmers on the ground to assess the impact the flooding has had on the state's farmland.

He told reporters Thursday afternoon that the crop damage was worse than had been feared.

"I had hoped to find that the damage to our agricultural sector might be limited or might be recoverable. That is not my impression after today," Daniels said. "It appears much more likely that the damage is severe and will not be salvageable in many cases for the balance of this year."

The governor said he spoke to farmers who had lost anywhere from 10 percent of their crop to nearly all of their crop. Many told him they won't be able to replant because their fields are now too wet and because it's getting too far into the growing season.

"The last day for corn (planting) is only about a week or more off and the land will still be wet. We talked to farmers who had already replanted once after the rains of the spring and now have lost two plantings," Daniels said.

On Tuesday, the governor asked the head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a farm disaster declaration in 44 Indiana counties because of damage to crops or livestock losses due to flooding and storms since May 30.

Such a declaration would make farmers eligible for emergency loans.

In Daviess County, where the town of Elnora about 100 miles southwest of Indianapolis had been threatened earlier in the week by flooding, county emergency management director Paul Goss said Thursday evening that the White River had crested and the river was falling.

"Now comes the hard part - the paperwork and the rebuilding," he said.

Goss said the flooding had damaged 55 to 66 homes in the southwestern Indiana county.

Even though the waters are falling, he said, standing water in fields, yards, and woods would remain for weeks to come.

"It's receding but because it's going to drain back through some areas where naturally it wouldn't have been in there'll be some standing water for some time," he said.

[Governor Surveys Farm Damage](#)

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels is calling parts of the state's farmlands "severely damaged."

The governor took a tour of several areas Thursday and says some crops may not be salvageable.

Three Family and Social Service Administration offices will open Friday morning at 9:00 AM as "one-stop shops."

FSSA Secretary Mitch Roob says those affected by the floods can do everything from fill out FEMA applications to getting emergency food stamps.

The first three offices will open in Columbus, Martinsville, and Terre Haute.

As for the forecast of more storms, the governor says he is hoping for a lucky break on Friday the 13th.

Daniels says Hoosiers need some time off from heavy rains.

[After The Deluge, Victims Eager For Aid to Arrive](#)

The rain has stopped. The water's gone down.

Now, flood victims who have lost their homes or belongings are eager for federal disaster grants and loans, so they can start rebuilding. Officials said Thursday they were working hard to deliver that aid as quickly as possible.

Hers was one of the calmer voices. Tensions boiled over at a packed town hall meeting Tuesday night called by Columbus Mayor Fred Armstrong to address residents' questions over when they could expect help from the government. The uncertain responses from Diego Alvarado, a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, seemed only to make matters worse.

"I was a little frustrated with the FEMA rep," Armstrong said Thursday, empathizing with his constituents. "They're going through a terrible ordeal. They're frustrated."

However, word late Wednesday that President Bush had approved eight Indiana counties - including Bartholomew, where Columbus is located - for individual federal aid to homeowners, renters and businesses went a long way toward soothing frayed nerves, Armstrong said.

"FEMA will work their way through this. And we'll help them," the mayor said.

FEMA spokesman Sam Ventura acknowledged victims' frustrations with his agency, saying Thursday, "There were no answers for them or anything."

The other seven counties approved first for individual federal aid are Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Vermillion and Vigo, all located in the central part of the state that received up to 11 inches of rainfall Saturday. The government will provide up to \$28,800 for rent, repairs and replacement of homes and household items, and the Small Business Administration will provide loans of up to \$200,000 for households and \$1.5 million for businesses.

Gov. Mitch Daniels has said he expects other counties to be added as the state surveys them for damages.

"We've got folks who have suffered really serious hardship here and they're shook up as anyone would be, and my assignment to these folks is we have got to find a way to make it as easy for them and as comfortable for them to go through this process and ask their questions as we can," Daniels said this week.

State officials on Thursday afternoon said there were still two areas of concern where river waters had not crested - Hazleton along the White River in northern Gibson County and East Mount Carmel about 10 miles southwest of Hazleton in Gibson County.

Joseph Wainscott, director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, said sandbagging has been completed in Hazleton, and officials were evaluating what preventive steps might be needed in East Mount Carmel. He said new problems could arise with more rainfall predicted for Friday, but that the National Weather Service indicated that it should not have much affect on the current flooding.

FEMA anticipates opening local disaster assistance centers in some of the affected counties next week to answer victims' questions about available aid and when federal inspectors might visit their properties. Ventura urged residents of the approved counties who have been hurt by floods, tornados and other severe storms since May 30 to register for aid by calling 1-800-621-3362 or online at <http://www.fema.gov>

Residents in areas deemed eligible for individual federal assistance also can apply by phone or computers in state Family and Social Services Administration office in their counties.

The state planned to open "one-stop" help locations in Columbus, Martinsville and Terre Haute where people can receive or ask about many types of state assistance or apply for federal aide. Victims also can call 1-888-880-3749 for information.

Daniels has requested federal disaster aid for 44 counties, and Bush so far has approved direct emergency aid for 29 of those counties. That provides food, water, emergency protection and other immediate needs.

Dennis Moats, Bartholomew County's emergency management director, said he was pleased with FEMA's response so far.

"I think they're going to be in here extremely quickly. Most people don't realize that FEMA is not a 911 call," Moats said.

Louisville Courier Journal

Floodwaters still threaten

Last night, state officials said floodwaters had not yet crested at Hazleton, along the White River, and East Mount Carmel, about 10 miles southwest of Hazleton near the area where the White empties into the Wabash. Both cities are in Gibson County.

Joseph Wainscott, director of the **Indiana** Department of Homeland Security, said sandbagging has been completed along a levee at Hazleton, and officials were evaluating what steps to take in East Mount Carmel.

Wainscott said that more rainfall is predicted for Indiana today, but noted that the National Weather Service indicated that it should not have much effect on current flooding.

Gov. Mitch Daniels toured a swath of southwestern Indiana by air yesterday and also spoke to some farmers to assess the impact that flooding has had on farmland.

"I had hoped to find that the damage to our agricultural sector might be limited or might be recoverable. That is not my impression after today," Daniels told reporters yesterday. "It appears much more likely that the damage is severe and will not be salvageable in many cases for the balance of this year."

The governor said he spoke to farmers who had lost anywhere from 10 percent to nearly all of their crops. Many told him they won't be able to replant because their fields are too wet and it's too far into the growing season.

"The last day for corn (planting) is only about a week or more off, and the land will still be wet. We talked to farmers who had already replanted once after the rains of the spring and now have lost two plantings," Daniels said.

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Even though the river is going down, he said water in fields, yards and woods would remain for weeks.

"It's receding but because it's going to drain back through some areas where naturally it wouldn't have been in there'll be some standing water for some time," he said.

Evansville Courier & Press

[Flood sinking crops](#)

Gov. Mitch Daniels and state Agriculture Department Director Andy Miller toured flood-stricken areas in the Hoosier state by helicopter Thursday and met with farmers representing 12 counties.

"I hoped to find that the damage to the agricultural sector might be limited or might be recoverable. That is not my impression after (Thursday)," Daniels said. "It appears likely the damage is severe and will not be salvageable, in many cases, for the balance of this year."

Miller said it's too early to give a "macro-number" of acres flooded and unrecoverable.

"I will be shocked in those affected counties if we are not talking 20 percent that is affected very severely," Miller said.

An official assessment of the amount of crop damage rests with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Miller said that federal Farm Service Agency field agents will be in affected counties, working with local farmers to calculate their damage. That will allow U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer to release emergency loans and other federal assistance, perhaps by next week.

"We have to wait for the water to recede to get into the field to determine the extent of the damage," Miller said.

[Posey declares emergency as river keeps rising](#)

With the Wabash River at New Harmony, Ind., already more than five feet over its flood stage and continuing to rise, Posey County officials on Thursday declared a state of emergency.

The Indiana National Guard will begin sandbagging a 2,200-foot section of levee north of New Harmony this morning, said Larry Robb, director of the Posey County Emergency Management Agency.

Floodwater has been draining from the White River and into the Wabash, which is forecast to crest at 22 feet sometime Monday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service at Paducah, Ky.

However, once the river reaches that stage it is forecast to stay there for several days.

That uncertainty led to the emergency declaration, Robb said.

"There are just too many variables," he said.

Also, the Indiana Department of Transportation was warning Thursday that motorists could not access Illinois 1 from Indiana 66 at New Harmony, Ind., because of high water on the Illinois side. The road was closed about 4 miles west of the Wabash River in Illinois.

[FEMA Response to flooding](#)

Indiana plans to open one-stop help locations today in Columbus, Martinsville and Terre Haute where people can receive or ask about many types of state assistance or apply for federal aid.

The one nearest the Evansville area is at Booker T. Washington Community Center, 1101 S. 13th St., in Terre Haute. Today's hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thereafter, the centers will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

State officials announced three new hot lines:

n Flood victims who need information on assistance, call 1-888-880-3749.

n To offer small donations, or to volunteer to help flood victims, call 1-888-335-9490.

n To arrange to drop off donations through a state program, call 1-888-325-6811.

FEMA RESPONSE

The first eight counties approved for individual federal aid are Bartholomew, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Vermillion and Vigo, all located in the central part of the state that received up to 11 inches of rain on Saturday.

The government will provide up to \$28,800 for rent, repairs and replacement of homes and household items, and the Small Business Administration will provide loans of up to \$200,000 for households and \$1.5 million for businesses.

Gov. Mitch Daniels has said he expects other counties to be added as the state surveys them for damage.

FEMA anticipates opening local disaster assistance centers in some of the affected counties next week. FEMA spokesman Sam Ventura urged residents of the eight counties who have been hurt by floods, tornadoes and other severe storms since May 30 to register for aid by calling 1-800-621-3362 or online at www.fema.gov.

Levee Fails

A levee holding back the swollen White River broke Wednesday in Daviess County, Ind., in rural Capehart, Ind., spilling floodwater across farm fields.

"That brought the water level to parts of western Steele Township and Washington Township that had never seen the water that far east before," said Dave Crooks, acting spokesman for the Daviess County Emergency Management Agency.

The National Guard worked to shore up the levee around Elnora, Ind., with thousands of sandbags. Although the levee is holding, Crooks, a Democratic state legislator who is winding up his term and did not run again, estimated that about 10 percent of the houses there took serious water damage.

In Washington, Ind., floodwater encroached to within inches of the wells that provide the town's drinking water. But since the floodwater receded, Washington did not have to issue a boil order, he said.

— Bryan Corbin

levee checks

State government has the authority to inspect most levees and dams on both public and private property in Indiana.

Under state law, levees and dams are to be inspected a minimum of once every three years, and more often if conditions require it.

"The state inspects these on a regular basis and orders their repair very frequently," Gov. Mitch Daniels said earlier this week. "But the biggest exposure we have is on private property, and we are monitoring those very, very carefully."

Department of Natural Resources spokesman Phil Bloom said a formal dam inspection is "a fairly comprehensive procedure involving a wide range of technical expertise that can last two or three days to get all of the assorted things done." By contrast, during this week's flood, inspectors from the department's Division of Water are performing damage assessments or spot checks of more than 100 dams downstream of flooding, coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bloom said. The division had 37 people working on Tuesday, he said.

[FEMA chief coming to Indiana](#)

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